

**General Assembly**

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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Letter dated 3 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the international conference entitled "Chernobyl 30 years later: from an emergency to a revival and sustainable social and economic development of affected territories", held in Minsk on 25 April 2016 (see annex).

I should appreciate it if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 73 (d).

(Signed) Andrei Dapkiunas

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Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration

Chernobyl 30 years later: from an emergency to a revival and sustainable social and economic development of affected territories

We, the participants in the international conference entitled "Chernobyl 30 years later: from an emergency to a revival and sustainable social and economic development of affected territories", held in Minsk on 25 April 2016, representing Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and other States (see enclosure), as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Union State of Belarus and Russia, the World Bank and the World Health Organization,

Having considered the accumulated experience of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and within the initiative of the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (2006-2016) and other international and national programmes,

Having outlined further steps to overcome long-term consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, having discussed ways of strengthening international cooperation with regard to Chernobyl for the period after 2016,

Noting the progress made by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in the mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the rehabilitation of the affected regions and the resolving of the corresponding medical, environmental and social problems,

At the same time expressing concern about the ongoing exposure of the population to radiation and the risks of developing diseases connected with the Chernobyl factor,

Noting the maintenance costs with regard to the environmental pollution and its negative influence on the economic capacity of territories with high levels of radioactive contamination,

Considering of very high importance the continuation of international cooperation in studying and eliminating of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Greatly appreciating the coordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme in international cooperation with regard to Chernobyl, and noting the necessity of the continuation of such coordination, including by means of the

activity of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl with the involvement of interested organizations and countries,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation with international partners in the exchange of experience in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, including by use of the Polesye State Radiation and Ecology Reserve as an international research site for the implementation of projects in the field of ecological and radiation safety,

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Ukraine and the input and contributions made by States, international organizations and financial institutions to complete the construction of the shelter facility and related nuclear safety projects at Chernobyl, in accordance with international standards, so as to rehabilitate the site into a stable and environmentally safe condition, and urging relevant parties to ensure that a strong commitment remains in place to ensure the successful completion of this vital work,

Confirming the relevance of preservation and the distribution of the experience of overcoming the serious consequences of nuclear catastrophes in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,

Emphasizing the importance of the preservation of existing and the formation of new partnerships for the encouragement of sustainable development in the affected regions, attraction of innovations and investments, development of a system of targeted high-tech and specialized medical care, a healthier affected population, improvement of the system of protective measures, creation of an effective information space on radiation safety, formation of a radioecological culture of the population and skills for safe living activity in affected territories,

Acknowledging the need for transition after 2016 to a new stage of cooperation with regard to Chernobyl under the auspices of the United Nations, and relying on the experience of multilateral interaction and the activity of partnerships created between 1986 and 2016,

Call upon United Nations Member States and their partners to develop and support the post-2016 international initiative on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Chernobyl affected areas through partnerships, innovation and investment, the coordination of the implementation of which should be exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in its capacity as the coordinating agency for United Nations activities on Chernobyl,

Consider the following tasks as priorities for international cooperation with regard to Chernobyl in the forthcoming years:

- (a) Further joint efforts aimed at the rehabilitation and sustainable development of the affected territories;
- (b) Distribution of unique knowledge and exchange of best practices in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;
- (c) Continuation of programmes of international technical cooperation for the achievement of the sustainable economic, ecological and social development of the affected territories;

(d) Strengthening national capacities of prevention and response to emergencies, including radiological and environmental monitoring, timely forecasting of risks of emergencies and developing educational and training programmes;

(e) Strengthening of health-care systems in the affected regions, long-term medical monitoring of exposed populations and effective medical assistance to the high-risk groups, including children and women;

(f) Conducting epidemiological studies of the medical consequences of the Chernobyl disaster with a view to increasing the effectiveness of medical assistance to individuals residing in radioactive contaminated areas;

(g) Management of knowledge and informational support for the formation of practical skills for safe living for populations in the affected territories, with a special focus on children and women;

(h) Rehabilitation and return to economic use of agricultural and forest areas in the abandoned territories, for the manufacturing of safe and clean products;

(i) Development of infrastructure stimulating technological innovations and the introduction of environmentally friendly technologies adapted to application in the affected areas;

(j) Strengthening scientific and technical cooperation in the field of safe use of nuclear energy;

Encourage the implementation of a number of practical activities under international cooperation with regard to Chernobyl, including the following:

(a) Monitoring of the affected regions for an assessment of the efficiency of international aid to the affected States;

(b) Launching, in 2017, under the auspices of the United Nations, the initiative on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Chernobyl affected regions through partnerships, innovation and investment and an action plan for its realization;

(c) Establishment of an international scientific network to study the long-term medical, radioecological, radiobiological and other consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, with research sites being established on the basis of the profile of national scientific institutions;

(d) Establishment of regional centres with the aim of informing populations on issues of safe living activity;

(e) Carrying out a global information campaign to enhance awareness of the needs of people and territories affected by the Chernobyl disaster, including the development and use of Internet resources;

Welcome support and contributions to cooperation with regard to Chernobyl by States, international organizations, private partners and non-governmental organizations;

Ask the organizers of the international conference in Minsk to take the necessary measures for the distribution of the present declaration as a document of the General Assembly;

Express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Belarus for holding this conference.

Enclosure

Participants in the international conference Chernobyl 30 years later: from an emergency to revival and sustainable social and economic development of affected territories

Armenia	Kyrgyzstan
Austria	Latvia
Azerbaijan	Lithuania
Belarus	Malta
Bulgaria	Poland
China	Republic of Korea
Cuba	Republic of Moldova
Czech Republic	Romania
Estonia	Russian Federation
France	Slovakia
Georgia	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Hungary	Tajikistan
Ireland	Turkey
Italy	Turkmenistan
Israel	Ukraine
Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Kazakhstan	United States of America
